

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Howard Miller Show

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CITY Chicago

AUTHOR INTERVIEWED

HOWARD MILLER: Good evening ladies and gentlemen. It's nice being with you again. In accordance with John Coleman's wintry weather forecast for tonight and for this weekend, I think we're in the right place this evening, in the war cozy surroundings of your living room. Thank you for inviting us. My guest tonight--and we're going to discuss the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States Government, is a man who has written a novel on that subject matter. His name is Victor Marchetti. His book is called, "The Rope Dancer." We welcome him to Chicago and to the Chicago program. Thank you for being here, Victor.

If there's adversary to this program, because Victor is definitely a critic of the CIA, the man who will represent the affirmative that the CIA is doing a remarkably fine job, is a Professor of Government. His name is Dr. Kellis, Dr. James Kellis, and we welcome the good doctor to our program, and hope that as an adversary he will stand and uphold the CIA. Is that generally your attitude; the way you feel about the CIA?

JAMES KELLIS: Well, I would agree with--in--in some points with Victor. Of course there are some discrepancies, some flaws and some failings in the CIA. But, generally, I think the long review, having been in this game longer than Victor has, I feel that the CIA is being--doing a reasonably good job and we can't expect perfection. CIA has been in--has been in being for only 25 years. The British Intelligence has been functioning for four hundred years. They still make mistakes there.

HOWARD MILLER: Victor, I'm curious as to why the "Rope Dancer," being fiction, you would use as a chronicle of our times, as your critique of the CIA, rather than to write a non-fiction piece.

VICTOR MARCHETTI: Well, originally I wanted to write a non-fiction piece, a critical analysis of the--not only the CIA but of the US Intelligence System. But at the time, immediately after leaving the agency, I had a lot of security hang-ups and loyalties to my old colleagues, and I didn't want to do that. In the novel, I

MORI/CDF